

METHOD FOR QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF A NUCLEIC ACID  
AMPLIFICATION REACTION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method for determining an unknown starting quantity of a  
target nucleic acid sequence in a test sample comprises the  
steps of amplifying the unknown starting quantity of the  
target nucleic acid sequence in the test sample and known  
starting quantities of a calibration nucleic acid sequence  
10 in respective calibration samples; and determining a  
respective threshold value for each of the nucleic acid  
sequences using a derivative of a growth curve derived for  
the sequence. The starting quantity of the target nucleic  
acid sequence in the test sample is determined using the  
15 threshold value determined for the target sequence and a  
calibration curve derived from the threshold values  
determined for the known starting quantities of the  
calibration nucleic acid sequences. The invention also  
provides methods for determining a starting quantity of a  
20 nucleic acid sequence in a sample using quantitative  
internal controls or using internal standards.